

The Great Glorious Britain

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Is Great Britain really great? If you think "it isn't", then this work is for you, since it attempts to convince you that you're wrong. If you think "it is", then still this work could be for you, since you may learn something glorious about this great land that you know not already.

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Some of the following are major reasons why Great Britain is truly great & glorious -

Britain has **played a major role in virtually every area of modern civilisation**, be it arts, sciences, sports, law, politics, music, languages...

Britain was **at the centre of the Industrial Revolution**.

The **modernisation** that exists in India, the United States, Australia, Canada, is largely **a result of the British Empire**.

The British Empire, at its height, was **the largest empire in history**, and was **the foremost global power for over a century**. At the peak of its power, it was often said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire" because its span across the globe ensured that the sun was always shining on at least one of its numerous territories.

The English language has become the "**lingua franca**" in many parts of the world. It is the language of science, internet and, in a sense, the most commonly spoken language, combining native and non-native speakers.

Magna Carta – which is arguably the most significant early influence on the extensive historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today in the English speaking world and which influenced the development of the common law and many constitutional documents, including the United States Constitution – **is an English (England) legal charter**, originally issued in the year 1215.

Major sports, such as cricket, football, tennis, and/or their modern versions or codes, **originated in Britain**.

A parliament is usually based on the **Westminster system**, a democratic parliamentary system of government, which was modelled after the politics of the United Kingdom.

The world's largest banking group – HSBC – is British, as of 2009.

The world's largest broadcaster is the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**.

The Royal Society, a learned society for science, is considered by most to be **the oldest such society still in existence**.

The Royal Air Force (RAF), the UK's air force, is **the oldest independent air force in the world**.

The United Kingdom has had **a large impact on modern cinema** and **has one of the most respected film industries in the world**. The British film industry has produced some of the greatest actors, directors and motion pictures of all time, including Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Laurence Olivier and Anthony Hopkins.

The University of Cambridge has produced **83 Nobel Laureates** to date, **more than any other university in the world**.

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University of Oxford in England, is **the largest university press in the world**, being **larger than all the American university presses combined**.

Cambridge University Press (CUP) is **the world's oldest continually operating book publisher**.

Encyclopædia Britannica, which is **the world's oldest continuously-published encyclopaedia** and the one widely regarded as **the most scholarly of encyclopaedias**, is published by **Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.**, a company founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Eton College, located in Eton, near Windsor in England, has been described as **the most famous public school in the world**.

Vodafone, the British mobile network operator, is **the largest mobile telecommunications network company in the world by turnover**.

The Wimbledon Tennis Championships is **the oldest tennis tournament in the world** and is **considered the most prestigious**.

London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, is **the world's foremost global city** alongside New York City and **the largest financial centre** alongside New York City and Tokyo.

The public transport network, administered by Transport for London, is **the most extensive in the world**.

The London Underground is **the first underground railway system in the world**.

London Heathrow Airport is the world's busiest airport by international passenger traffic and the airspace is the busiest of any city in the world.

The London Zoo is the world's oldest scientific zoo.

The London Eye is the world's tallest cantilevered observation wheel.

The largest Hindu temple outside India is The Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden, London.

The planned 2012 Olympics will make London the first city to have hosted the modern Games of three Olympiads.

London was named by New York Magazine as the capital of the world for the 21st century.

A list of some well known British people and their achievements -

Charles Babbage (1791–1871) – The originator of the concept of a programmable computer

Alan Turing (1912–1954) – The father of modern computer science

Tim Berners-Lee (b. 1955) – The inventor of the World Wide Web

Isaac Newton (1643–1727) – The father of the theory of gravitation, the laws of motion, and the inventor of the reflector telescope

Charles Darwin (1809–1882) – The father of the theory of evolution by natural selection

William Shakespeare (d. 1616) – The greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist

William Wordsworth (1770–1850) – A major English romantic poet

James Watt (1736–1819) – The mechanical engineer whose improvements to the steam engine were fundamental to the changes brought by the Industrial Revolution.

James Clerk Maxwell (1831–1879) – The developer of the classical electromagnetic theory

J. J. Thomson (1856–1940) – The discoverer of the electron and of isotopes, and the inventor of the mass spectrometer

Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873) – A founder of modern geology

Francis Crick (1916–2004) – A discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule

John Dalton (1766–1844) – Pioneer in the development of modern atomic theory

Michael Faraday (1791–1867) – The inventor of electromagnetic rotary devices which formed the foundation of electric motor technology; it was largely due to his efforts that electricity became viable for use in technology

William Herschel (1738–1822) – The discoverer of Uranus

Robert Hooke (1635–1703) – The father of microscopy

Edward Jenner (1749–1823) – The father of Immunology

Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947) – A co-author of the epochal Principia Mathematica

Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922) – The inventor of the first practical telephone

Francis Bacon (1561–1626) – The developer of the modern scientific method

David Hume (1711–1776) – A key figure in the history of western philosophy

John Locke (1632–1704) – Famous philosopher & one of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers

Henry Cavendish (1731–1810) – The discoverer of hydrogen

Richard Trevithick (1771–1833) & Andrew Vivian (1759–1842) – The developers of the steam locomotive

George Stephenson (1781–1848) – The civil engineer and mechanical engineer, known as the "Father of Railways", who built the first public railway line in the world to use steam locomotives

John Logie Baird (1888–1946) – The inventor of the world's first working television system

Frank Whittle (1907–1996) – The inventor of the Jet Engine

Alexander Fleming (1881–1955) – The discoverer of penicillin

Christopher Cockerell (1910–1999) – The inventor of the Hovercraft

Joseph Swan (1828–1914) – The inventor of the incandescent light bulb

Archibald Low (1888–1956) – The father of radio guidance systems

Joseph Bramah (1748–1814) – The inventor of the hydraulic press

John Harington (1561–1612) – The inventor of the Flush toilet

Hubert Cecil Booth (1871–1955) – The inventor of the vacuum cleaner

Alexander Bain (1818–1903) – The inventor of the fax machine

James Braid (1795–1860) – The father of modern hypnotism

Dugald Clerk (1854–1932) – The designer of the first two-stroke engine

John Shepherd-Barron (b. 1925) – The inventor of the Automatic Teller Machine

Robert Watson-Watt (1892–1973) – The inventor of radar

Robert Brown (1773–1858) – The discoverer of Brownian motion

James Starley (1830–1881) – The father of the Bicycle Industry

Rowland Hill (1795–1879) – The inventor of the modern postal service

Bertrand Russell (1872–1970) – The influential logician, mathematician, and philosopher

Stephen Hawking (b. 1942) – The famous theoretical physicist

Roger Penrose (b. 1931) – The famous mathematical physicist

J. K. Rowling (b. 1965) – The creator of the Harry Potter fantasy series

Charles Dickens (1812–1870) – The most popular English novelist of the Victorian era

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930) – The creator of the famous fictional character Sherlock Holmes

John Maynard Keynes (1883–1946) – The economist whose ideas have been a central influence on modern economics, both in theory and practice

George E. P. Box (b. 1919) – A most influential statistician of the 20th century and a pioneer in the areas of quality control, time series analysis, design of experiments and Bayesian inference

Stamford Raffles (1781–1826) – The father of modern Singapore

Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832) – The developer of utilitarianism and the originator of the concept of the Panopticon

Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson – The first formulators of the Politeness theory

Bands -

The Beatles (formed in 1960) – One of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed bands in the history of popular music, selling over one billion records internationally.

And if you happen to be one of those who think that Britain is nothing but a land of materialism and became great by robbing other nations, think again!

– A source is "Wikipedia"

Some quotations about Great Britain -

"I am constantly filled with admiration at this – at the way you can wander through a town like Oxford and in the space of a few hundred yards pass the home of Christopher Wren, the buildings where Halley found his comet and Boyle his first law, the track where Roger Banister ran the first sub-four minute mile, the meadow where Lewis Carroll strolled; or how you can stand on Snow's Hill at Windsor and see, in a single sweep, Windsor Castle, the playing fields of Eton, the churchyard where Gray wrote his 'Elegy,' the site The Merry Wives of Windsor was first performed. Can there anywhere on earth be, in such a modest span, a landscape more packed with centuries of busy, productive attainment?"

- Bill Bryson

"This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands,—
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."

- William Shakespeare, Richard II (1595) Act 2, Scene 1

"An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one."

- George Mikes

"I have seen much to hate here, much to forgive. But in a world where England is finished and dead, I do not wish to live."

- Alice Duer Miller

"England expects every man will do his duty."

- Horatio Nelson

"By seeing London, I have seen as much of life as the world can show."

- Samuel Johnson

"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford."

- Samuel Johnson

"London goes beyond any boundary or convention. It contains every wish or word ever spoken, every action or gesture ever made, every harsh or noble statement ever expressed. It is illimitable. It is Infinite London."

- Peter Ackroyd

"With respect, Mr. Gandhi, without British administration, this country would be reduced to chaos."

- Kinnoch

When Britain first, at heaven's command,
Arose from out of the azure main,
This was the charter of the land,
And guardian angels sung this strain:
"Rule, Britannia, rule the waves;
Britons never will be slaves."

- James Thomson

Some common misconceptions about Great Britain -

1. Britain has no culture.
2. The British are arrogant.
3. Britain is nothing but a land of materialism and became great by robbing other nations.
4. Britain has no future without the United States.